

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

 IDAHO
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE
P.O. Box 1699
Boise, ID 83701
1-208-334-1507
FAX: (208) 334-1114
www.nass.usda.gov/id

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January Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 12,000 hired workers on farms and ranches the week of January 11-17, 2004, up 20 percent from the 10,000 workers the week of January 12-18, 2003. According to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service, hired workers worked an average of 35.4 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$8.92 per hour, up 39 cents from last year.

There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 37.7 hours a year ago.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.